

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 06379 020746Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 /014 W
-----020749Z 090548 /21
R 020709Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7377

UNCLAS TOKYO 6379

STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: RAUSCHENBERG EXHIBIT

1. IT IS POST UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RAUSCHENBERG RETROSPECTIVE AT MOMA NEW YORK RUNS UNTIL MAY 17, THEN GOES TO SAN FRANCISCO, BUFFALO AND CHICAGO, CLOSING THERE AND FINISHING THE CIRCUIT JANUARY 15, 1978.

2. DURING CALL ON ASAHI SHIMBUN BY TENNY AND KAYS LAST WEEK, POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS OF ASAHI CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH JAPAN-AMERICA FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION OF A MAJOR AMERICAN EXHIBIT OF SOME KIND. THEY WERE RECEPTIVE TO IDEA, THOUGH NO SPECIFICS RAISED.

3. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO GET THE RAUSCHENBERG AFTER CHICAGO CLOSURE? IF ALL 157 WORKS ARE A BIT TOO GRANDIOSE IN SCALE, COULD WE GET A SELECTED PORTION OF THEM?

4. POST HAS NO DOUBT THIS WOULD BE A SMASH IN JAPAN WHERE RAUSCHENBERG IS HIGHLY POPULAR. QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS WHETHER COST IS OUT OF REACH.

5. THIS HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN RAISED WITH ASAHI. NO POINT IN RAISING FALSE HOPES. NEITHER WAS IT
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06379 020746Z

DISCUSSED WITH TENNY WHO WAS THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF TRADITIONAL RAHER THAN MODERN AMERICAN ART. TENNY FEELS, AND POST AGREES, JAPANESE ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH MODERN AMERICAN ART THAN WITH TRADITIONAL, AND A GOOD EXHIBIT OF THE LATTER WOULD SERVE POST OBJECTIVES VERY WELL. GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY OF STARTING FROM SCRATCH TO PUT A RETROSPECTIVE TOGETHER,

HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HAVE THE BIRD
IN HAND, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BIRD IS RAUSCHENBERG.
REQUEST CU DETERMINE WHETHER ALL OR PART OF EXHIBIT
MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR JAPAN ANYTIME AFTER LATE 1978 AND, IF
SO, WOULD FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION BE INTERESTED IN
GIVING AN ASSIST WITH THE FUNDING. IF ANSWER IS
FAVORABLE, WE WILL APPROACH ASAHI AND OR OTHE POSSIBLE
CO-SPONSOR. IF ANSWER NEGATIVE, WE WILL FORGET IT.

6. GRATUITIOUSLY, SHOULD THIS MATERIALIZE, POST WOULD
BE HAPPY TO RESERVE AN AMSPEC GRANT IF RAUSCHENBERG
HIMSELF WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG TO PARTICIPATE IN
COUPLE OF ART PROGRAMS AND VIEW CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
KAYS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO06379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-1132
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705102/aaaadkog.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc24e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2325547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAUSCHENBERG EXHIBIT
TAGS: SCUL
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc24e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009